

RISHWORTH

Urban Sanitary District.

Medical Officer's

ANNUAL REPORT,

For the Year 1894.

Dear Sirs,

In presenting the Report for the year 1894, I do so with more satisfaction than last year. We have had no prevailing epidemic to contend with this year as we had last, viz., Smallpox amongst the navvies at Oxen Grange Bridge.

The early part of this year was attended with 12 cases of Scarlet Fever. The first case broke out in No. 2 Hut, amongst the navvies at Oxen Grange Bridge.

On Jan. 20th, in No. 1 Hut	...	...	One Case.
„ 22nd, in No. 9 Hut	...	...	One Case.
„ 26th, at Arken Royd	...	...	Three Cases.
„ 28th, at Pike End	...	...	One Case.
„ 28th, at Rishworth Grammar School,			One Case.
„ 31st,	„	„	One Case.
Feb. 1st,	„	„	One Case.
„ 2nd,	„	„	One Case.
„ 4th,	„	„	One Case.
March 9th, No. 13 Hut	...	...	One Case.

At Rishworth Grammar School it was considered necessary to close the School, which was done from February 6th to March 31st. No other case occurred on the return of the pupils to the School.

The result of the spread of Scarlet Fever was very limited. All the cases recovered—disinfection and isolation was strictly carried out in every case—otherwise it would have spread through the district.

At Rishworth Grammar School in May, November, and December, we had a succession of a low form of ulceration of the throat with fever. I attribute the cause to some defect in the water supply, which was found to contain organic matter occasionally. The Trustees of this Charity have a scheme in hand so as to obtain a better water supply. The drainage is in good order.

One case was attended with an eruption resembling scarlet fever. After isolation the rash subsided quickly and no other case followed.

On January 27th, a case of typhoid fever was reported to me, residing at High Moss Farm. The house on inspection was free from any sanitary defect. This man died on February 3rd. The house was afterwards disinfected; no other case occurred.

In May a case of continued fever was reported in a child residing at Lower Godley. The cellar drains were found defective. I reported the alteration required.

The road drain in front of the cottages at Turner Bottom has been replaced with 6in. pipes and trapped.

The Births have been 28, viz.:—18 Males and 10 Females; or at the rate of 21·7 per 1000 per annum, as against 26·12 per 1000 last year.

Although the birth rate is not so high as it was last year, we have also a lower death rate. The Deaths have been 20, viz. :—11 Males and 9 Females, or at the rate of 15·5 per 1000 per annum, as against 16·12 per 1000 last year.

In the summary of deaths, the most prevalent causes have been from pneumonia, bronchitis, and heart disease ; only one from phthisis, two from apoplexy in persons over 60 years of age.

The mortality this year has decreased, not having experienced any serious epidemic.

The supply of water is derived from various sources, in some instances, in its course down the hill sides, the houses requiring it receive their supply; in others it is received from springs.

The rainfall this year was taken at Thorpe, near Triangle, and is .

The Inspector of Nuisances in his report informs me that no new closets or ashpits have been erected.

The drains have been kept open and disinfectants applied when necessary ; also houses requiring disinfection have been fumigated with sulphur.

Dairies and cowsheds are the same as last year.

During the month of December no death was registered in this district ; and is now in a good sanitary state, with a sufficient water supply.

Yours truly,

ROBERT ATKINSON,
MEDICAL OFFICER.

